NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

Advisory Committee Meeting – February 9, 2024

In-Person and Teleconference Meeting

Please Note: All Committee Members are required to attend in person unless provisions of AB2449 have been satisfied.

Please notify Laurie Kiser immediately if you or your designated alternate(s) are unable to attend the Advisory Committee Meeting at the City of Clovis Public Safety Room on February 9, 2024.

NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

AGENDA
NKGSA Advisory Committee - Special Meeting
February 9, 2024, 1:30 PM

TELECONFERENCE and IN-PERSON MEETING

The NKGSA is offering its Advisory Committee meeting both via teleconference and in-person. Members of the public are encouraged to participate either in person at the City of Clovis Public Safety Community Room, 1233 Fifth Street, Clovis, CA, or virtually using the information provided below. All committee members participating in the meeting will be in person.

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.
Join Zoom Meeting
https://zoom.us/j/98104275024?pwd=RTBvcHNTZ2xaOXRHN1czeS9uZGRqUT09
Meeting ID: 981 0427 5024
Passcode: 239389

By Phone:
1 (669) 900 - 6833
Meeting ID: 981 0427 5024
Passcode: 239389

Written and Verbal Comments

- Members of the public participating virtually will have an opportunity to provide public comments during the meeting under Agenda Item No. 2 and following each agenda item discussion. No prior arrangements are required to be able to make public comment but comments are limited to three (3) minutes.

- Written Comments can also be provided up to one hour prior to the scheduled meeting. Written comments received in advance of the meeting will be read onto the record during the public comment portion when the item is heard. Any portion of your comment extending past three (3) minutes may not be read aloud due to time restrictions but will be made part of the record of proceedings.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

2. Public Presentations

3. Approval of Minutes:
    a. Approval of Minutes from January 12, 2024 Meeting
4. Financial Report
    a. Discussion / Possible action - Recommend Approval of Expense Reports for December 2023 (Koehn)
    b. Discussion / Possible Action – Recommend Approval of Financial Statements as of December 31, 2023 (Koehn)
    c. Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget Update (Chauhan)

5. Receive – Basin Coordination Update (Samuelian)

6. Administrative
    a. Discussion / Possible Action – Recommend Approval of Improvements to the Groundwater Level Monitoring Network Wells to the NKGSA Board of Directors (Chauhan)
    b. Discussion / Possible Action – Recommend Approval of NKGSA Policy 2024-001 – Minimum Well Depth Construction Policy (Chauhan)
    c. 2024 Well Permitting Update (Chauhan)
    d. Well Registration Tool Launch Schedule and Update (Chauhan)

7. Workgroup Updates and Actions
    a. Technical Workgroup Update (Claes)
    b. Kings Water Alliance – Stakeholder Advisory Committee Report (Koehn)

8. Member Agency/Committee Member Reports
    a. Advisory Committee/Member Agency Reports/Updates
        i. Water Supply Update (Claes)
        ii. Others
9. Executive Officer Update (Chauhan)
    a. 2023 Year in Review and 2024 Priorities Discussion
    b. Kings Basin Special Studies Update
    c. SGMA Implementation Projects Update
    d. Outreach / External Affairs Update
    e. Representative Monitoring Network Update
    f. Miscellaneous

10. Adjourn **Next Meeting: March 8, 2024**

3.a. – MEETING MINUTES –

January 12, 2024

MINUTES
(Preliminary – Subject to Revision/Approval at Next Meeting)

NKGSA Advisory Committee Meeting
January 12, 2024

IN-PERSON AND TELECONFERENCE

In attendance:

**Scott Redelfs (City of Clovis)
*Shay Bakman (Bakman Water Company)
*Dejan Pavic (City of Fresno)
*Jesus Gonzalez (City of Kerman and Biola Community Services District)
*Roy Jimenez (Fresno County)
*Adam Claes (FID)
*Jarrod Takemoto (FMFCD)
*Nick Keller (Garfield Water District)
Kassy Chauhan (NKGSA)
Andrew Aller (NKGSA legal counsel)
Ronnie Samuelian (Provost & Pritchard)
Paul Armendariz (City of Clovis)
Kristen Freberg (City of Clovis)
Lisa Koehn (Clovis)
Moises Ortiz
Jennifer Marshall

** - Committee Chair
* - Voting representative on Advisory Committee

*__**Note:__ In an effort to maximize participation in the NKGSA Advisory Committee meeting, the meeting was conducted in-person at the City of Clovis Public Safety Community Room (1233 Fifth Street, Clovis, CA 93612) as well as via web conference for members of the public wishing to participate remotely.*

Item 1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 1:33 PM.

Instructions:
Instructions for participation by both remote and in-person attendees were given by Executive Officer Kassy Chauhan. Both written and verbal comments are accepted by all attendees and time will be made after each agenda item for comments to be heard.

Members of the Advisory Committee attended in person and were present/absent as follows:

Agency Name	Present/Absent	Name of Person
Bakman Water Company	Present	Shay Bakman
Biola CSD	Present	Alt. Director Jesus Gonzalez
City of Clovis	Present	Scott Redelfs
City of Fresno	Present	Dejan Pavic *
City of Kerman	Present	Jesus Gonzalez
Fresno County	Present	Roy Jimenez
Fresno Irrigation District	Present	Adam Claes
Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District	Present	Jarrod Takemoto
Garfield Water District	Present	Nick Keller

** Arrived following action item under section 4a. Votes prior to 4a will reflect member as absent; votes following 4a will reflect member as present.*

Item 2. Public Presentations

There were no public presentations.

Item 3. Approval of Minutes

Item 3a. Approval of Minutes from November 3, 2023 Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes made by member Keller; second by member Bakman. Motion passed unanimously, 8-0 with 1 absent.

Item 4. Financial Report

Item 4a. Discussion / Possible Action – Recommend Approval of Expense Reports for October and November 2023
(Presented by Lisa Koehn)

Expenses for October 2023 totaled $34,324.88, comprised of payments for ACWA insurance, attorney fees, FID, P&P, Constant Contact, and a payment for Intuit Quickbooks. Expenses for November 2023 totaled $34,378.59 and included legal expenses, payments to P&P and FID, auditor's fees, and a payment for Quickbooks.

Motion to approve by member Jimenez; second by member Claes. Motion passed unanimously, 8-0 with 1 absent.

Item 4b. Discussion / Possible Action – Recommend Approval of Financial Statements as of November 30, 2023
(Presented by Lisa Koehn)

As of November 30, 2023, current assets were $1,615,568.07. Some grants receivable and accounts receivable funds are still pending.

Total expenses to date totaled $102,039.43, which is approximately 20% of the annual budget. One item is slightly over budget, which is the auditing expenses.

Motion to approved made by member Claes; second by member Takemoto. Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

Item 4c. Local Agency Investment Fund Update
(Presented by Lisa Koehn)

For the fourth quarter of 2023, $5,163.51 was received on the deposited funds, which is about a 4% rate of return. The interest generated in the LAIF account was much higher than the interest that would have been generated in a regular savings account which would have been about $70.00.

Item 5. Receive – Basin Coordination Update
(Presented by Ronnie Samuelian)

Work continues on the three primary data gap studies – well mitigation, confined aquifer, and interconnected surface water. A draft of the well mitigation study for review should be available next week at the coordination meeting and will eventually be sent to the technical subcommittees. Other GSP corrective actions will follow the completion of these three studies. All of these changes are being addressed at the Basin level.

Revised GSPs will be publicly noticed again and re-adopted by the respective Boards following a public comment period.

Water allocation framework discussions are ongoing, but the main focus is working on the revised GSP. It is expected that the water allocation framework discussions will pick up again after the GSPs are revised and out for public comment.

The annual report is due to the Department of Water Resources on April 1st and work is being done to assemble all of the data.

Item 6. Administrative

Item 6a. Fall 2023 Groundwater Level Conditions Report
(Presented by Kassy Chauhan & Ronnie Samuelian)

Questions have come up regarding how the aquifer has responded to the historica water year (October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023) based on the most recent Fall water level measurements. Most wells that were measured indicated an increase in groundwater levels in Fall 2023, but there are five wells that were missing date in either 2022 or 2023 so a comparison was not possible.
Having missing measurement date from the sustainable management criteria (SMC) wells in the NKGSA network is problematic due to DWR assigning a value of failure/exceedance of minimum threshold (MT) for any points without a reading. If there is an exceedance of the MT at more than 15% of the SMC wells requires implementation of management actions. Measurements need to be taken at least twice per year; once in the Spring and once in the Fall. Some problematic wells may require the identification of an alternate location for taking a measurement.

Other possible solutions are telemetry or utilizing a dedicated monitoring well network to minimize reliance on existing agricultural wells, etc.

Item 6b. Discussion – Recommend Approval of Improvements to the Groundwater Level Monitoring Network Wells to the NKGSA Board of Directors
(Presented by Kassy Chauhan)

No further action is being sought at this time. Further updates will be presented at a future meeting and will require potential action prior to proceeding. It is expected that the item will be presented at the February 9, 2024, advisory committee meeting.

Item 6c. 2023 Well Permitting Update
(Presented by Kassy Chauhan)

There were 293 total well permit applications submitted to Fresno County Environmental Health Department in 2023. Approximately 175 to 180 permit applications were for either domestic wells and/or ag irrigation wells. The majority were for replacement wells rather than brand new wells. In comparison, 400 well permit applications were submitted in 2022, so there has been a noticeable reduction in permit applications in the past year.

Item 6d. Well Intake Portal Development and Launch
(Presented by Kassy Chauhan)

Details on the portal are being finalized with the developer, Break 9. Once that is complete, hosting will be moved over to the NKGSA website. The portal will soon be available for landowners to begin using. A full launch is expected during the second quarter of 2023. The portal has been in development for about a year and a half and it will be a voluntary program for the time being.

Item 7. Workgroup Updates and Actions

Item 7a. Technical Workgroup Update
(Presented by Adam Claes)

The last meeting was on January 3rd. A primary focus was the domestic well mitigation program and what that is going to look like with an emphasis on how the program would be funded by the NKGSA. The Kings Subbasin must first finalize what the framework will look like, and then the Technical Workgroup will begin discussing how to implement it. This program must be implemented by the end of 2024 in accordance with the corrective actions provided by DWR in its GSP determination letter. Different options for funding are being explored by the workgroup and will continue for the next few weeks.

The water quality network was also discussed. The original GSP relied heavily on community monitoring wells that were already submitting data to the State Water Resources Control Board, but the data frequency is minimal. A more formal water quality sampling and testing program may be needed in the future. A proposal will be developed and presented at a future Advisory Committee meeting for consideration and possible action.

Item 7b. Kings Water Alliance – Stakeholder Advisory Committee Report
(Presented by Lisa Koehn)

There has been no meeting since the last Advisory Committee meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for next week.

Item 8. Member Agency / Committee Member Reports

Item 8a. Advisory Committee/Member Agency Reports/Updates

i. **Water Supply Update**
(Presented by Member Claes)
The Kings River reservoir is about 60% full. If significant storm water comes and the level increases about another 35,000 acre-feet, flood releases may be necessary.

The 4 snow sensors that are located below an elevation of 10,000 feet do not work. The sensors above 10,000 feet are showing 26% of average for the date and 17% of April measurements. Rainfall and snow pack are far below average at this point but there is a lot of winter left and things can change quickly.

ii. Others

There were no further reports.

Item 9. Executive Officer Update

(Presented by Kassy Chauhan)

Item 9a. Kings Basin Special Studies Update

This item was discussed under the Kings Basin Coordination report above.

Item 9b. SGMA Implementation Projects Update

The Biola CSD project was completed. FID has another basin under construction and has made significant progress. FID also has four flood control basins being inner-tied and temporary levees at future basin sites and FID is working with DWR to secure funding through the emergency funding grant. Malaga County Water District is working on a project with FMFCD to construct a turnout, which is currently under construction. The City of Kerman is working on a project to install a meter to be able to measure diversions to their Lions Park Reservoir.

Item 9c. Outreach / External Affairs Update

Work continues on e-blogs, email distributions, website updates, and social media activity. Emphasis has been on featuring individual well owners.

Item 9d. Representative Monitoring Network Update

This was covered under previous agenda items.

Item 9e. Miscellaneous

No further items.

Item 10. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 2:27 PM.

Next Meeting: February 9, 2024

4 (a-b) - FINANCIAL REPORT –

Expense Report – December 2023; and Financial Statements Through December 31, 2023

NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

AGENDA ITEM NO:	**4 (a-b)**
Executive Officer:	KDC

NKGSA-
REPORT TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TO: Chair and Advisory Committee Members

FROM: DeAnn Stork – Fiscal Agent

DATE: February 6, 2024

SUBJECT: Financial Update

ATTACHMENTS: (A) NKGSA – Expense Reports – December 2023
(B) Financial Statements as of December 31, 2023

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None

RECOMMENDATION

For the Advisory Committee to recommend approval of the Expense Reports for December 2023 and Financial Statements as of December 31, 2023, to the NKGSA Board of Directors.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The fiscal agent, DeAnn Hailey, has prepared the monthly expense reports for December 2023 (Attachment A) and the financial statements as of December 31, 2023 (Attachment B). All expenses are within the budget amounts with the exception of the audit expense which was slightly higher than the budgeted amount. This will addressed in a budget revision in the next few months. The increase in cost for the auditing services is due to the change in firms and general increased expense for professional accounting services. There were no unexpected expenses noted.

The project costs line item for $25,000.00 has not been utilized thus far in FY 2023-2024 but the Advisory Committee will consider taking action to recommend those funds be used

to purchase telemetry equipment for up to 10 sustainable management criteria (SMC) wells in the NKGSA monitoring network.

The inclusion of the financial reports for consideration by the NKGSA Advisory Committee is a procedural change implemented in October 2020 to allow for review prior to submittal to the NKGSA Board of Directors for approval.

FISCAL IMPACT

The fiscal impact is shown on the attached reports. Expenses are in line with the amounts included in the NKGSA 2023-2024 Budget with the one exception being the audit services which were slightly more than the budgeted amount as noted above.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

The reports represent expenses and revenues for the NKGSA for this reporting period.

ACTIONS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The expense reports and financial statements will be provided to the NKGSA Board of Directors for approval at its board meeting on February 22, 2024.

Prepared by: DeAnn Stork

North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Transaction List with Splits
December 2023

Date	Num	Name	Memo/Description	Account	Amount
12/18/2023	20231218	Association of California Water Agencies		Accounts Payable	$ 3,313.17
			2024 Dues	Dues and Subscriptions	$ 3,313.17
12/01/2023	699758	Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo		Accounts Payable	$ 1,411.20
			November 2023 Legal Services	Legal	$ 1,411.20
12/27/2023		Constant Contact, Inc.		BMO - Checking Account	$ (45.00)
				Public Information	$ 45.00
12/14/2023	7320	Fresno Irrigation District		Accounts Payable	$ 10,816.72
			November 2023 Hours	Staff Expense:Executive Officer	$ 9,301.78
			November 2023 Fiscal Agent Hours	Staff Expense:Supporting Staff (FID)	$ 173.52
			November 2023 Recording Secretary Hours	Staff Expense:Supporting Staff (FID)	$ 527.67
			November 2023 GIS Specialist Hours	Staff Expense:Supporting Staff (FID)	$ 201.48
			November 2023 Admin Fee 6%	Staff Expense:Supporting Staff (FID)	$ 612.27
12/27/2023	106341	Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group		Accounts Payable	$ 13,701.51
			Project 02643-23-101 GEN	Professional Services:Engineering Consultant	$ 4,199.00
			Project 02643-23-101 PUB	Public Information	$ 9,502.51
12/27/2023	106343	Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group		Accounts Payable	$ 4,091.07
			Kings Basin Coordination COR	Kings Basin Coordination	$ 2,222.64
			Kings Basin Coordination GWP	Kings Basin Coordination	$ 629.20
			Kings Basin Coordination REP	Kings Basin Coordination	$ 1,239.23
12/27/2023	106351	Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group		Accounts Payable	$ 13,946.35
			Kings Basin Data Gap Studies KIN	Professional Services	$ 1,081.59
			Kings Basin Data Gap Studies SJR	Professional Services	$ 6,861.18
			Kings Basin Data Gap Studies SUB	Professional Services	$ 62.47
			Kings Basin Data Gap Studies WMP	Professional Services	$ 5,941.11

North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2023

ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Bank Accounts		
BMO - Checking Account		461,333.65
BMO - Money Market Account		555,962.76
LAIF		513,162.88
Total Bank Accounts	**$**	**1,530,459.29**
Accounts Receivable		
Accounts Receivable		27,867.94
Total Accounts Receivable	**$**	**27,867.94**
Other Current Assets		
Grants Receivable		26,180.91
Total Other Current Assets	**$**	**26,180.91**
Total Current Assets	**$**	**1,584,508.14**
TOTAL ASSETS	**$**	**1,584,508.14**
LIABILITIES & NET POSITION		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable		
Accounts Payable		36,463.30
Total Accounts Payable	**$**	**36,463.30**
Total Current Liabilities	**$**	**36,463.30**
Total Liabilities	**$**	**36,463.30**
Net Position		
Legal Reserves Fund		500,000.00
Net Investment		924,728.71
Net Income		123,316.13
Total Net Position	**$**	**1,548,044.84**
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET POSITION	**$**	**1,584,508.14**

North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Budget vs. Actual
July - December, 2023

	Actual	Budget	Remaining	% Remaining
Income				
Interested Party Contribution	7,113.20	7,363.20	250.00	3.40%
Member/Contracting Entity				
Bakman Water Company	1,449.85	1,449.85	0.00	0.00%
Biola Community Services Distr	56.23	56.23	0.00	0.00%
City of Clovis	12,083.24	12,083.24	0.00	0.00%
City of Fresno	62,371.19	62,371.19	0.00	0.00%
City of Kerman	1,627.19	1,627.19	0.00	0.00%
County of Fresno	31,772.14	31,772.14	0.00	0.00%
Fresno Irrigation District	142,576.29	142,576.29	0.00	0.00%
Garfield Water District	1,395.18	1,395.18	0.00	0.00%
International Water District	618.70	618.70	0.00	0.00%
Total Member/Contracting Entity	**253,950.01**	**253,950.01**	**0.00**	**0.00%**
Total Income	**261,063.21**	**261,313.21**	**250.00**	**0.10%**
Gross Revenues	**261,063.21**	**261,313.21**	**250.00**	**0.10%**
Expenses				
Audit Expense	5,725.00	5,000.00	(725.00)	-14.50%
Bank Charges	35.00	200.00	165.00	82.50%
Dues and Subscriptions	3,313.17	3,315.00	1.83	0.06%
Insurance	2,069.00	2,085.00	16.00	0.77%
Kings Basin Coordination	17,575.07	70,000.00	52,424.93	74.89%
Legal	9,436.36	60,000.00	50,563.64	84.27%
Office Supplies	297.50	550.00	252.50	45.91%
Professional Services	17,438.85	60,000.00	42,561.15	70.94%
Engineering Consultant	16,752.78	100,000.00	83,247.22	83.25%
Security Services	140.00	1,800.00	1,660.00	92.22%
Total Professional Services	**34,331.63**	**161,800.00**	**127,468.37**	**78.78%**
Project Costs		25,000.00	25,000.00	100.00%
Public Information	33,939.72	75,000.00	41,060.28	54.75%
Staff Expense			0.00	
Executive Officer	35,847.19	100,000.00	64,152.81	64.15%
Supporting Staff (FID)	6,837.31	30,000.00	23,162.69	77.21%
Total Staff Expense	**42,684.50**	**130,000.00**	**87,315.50**	**67.17%**
Total Expenses	**149,406.95**	**532,950.00**	**383,543.05**	**71.97%**
Net Operating Income	**111,656.26**	**(271,636.79)**	**(383,293.05)**	**141.10%**
Other Income				
Interest Income	3,994.78	8,000.00	4,005.22	50.07%
Unrealized Gain/Loss	7,665.09		(7,665.09)	
Total Other Income	**11,659.87**	**8,000.00**	**(3,659.87)**	**-45.75%**
Net Other Income	**11,659.87**	**8,000.00**	**(3,659.87)**	**-45.75%**
Net Income	**123,316.13**	**(263,636.79)**	**(386,952.92)**	**146.78%**

6 (b) – NKGSA Policy – 2024-001 Minimum Well Depth Construction Policy

NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

AGENDA ITEM NO:	6 (b)
Executive Officer:	KDC

NKGSA-
REPORT TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TO: Chair and Advisory Committee Members

FROM: Kassy Chauhan, P.E.

DATE: February 5, 2024

SUBJECT: Consider Recommending Approval of NKGSA Policy 2024-001 Minimum Well Depth Construction Policy to the NKGSA Board of Directors

ATTACHMENTS: (A) NKGSA-2024-001 –Minimum Well Depth Construction Policy

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None

RECOMMENDATION

For the Advisory Committee to recommend to the NKGSA Board of Directors to approve NKGSA-2024-001 – Minimum Well Depth Construction Policy to establish a policy aimed to ensure wells are drilled to a depth below where the minimum thresholds have been set in the NKGSA boundary.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The North Kings GSA's groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) commits to establishment of a domestic well mitigation program to provide resources to those groundwater users impacted by declining water levels within the NKGSA boundary. Since January 2020, the NKGSA has been reviewing the well permit applications submitted to the permitting agencies, primarily Fresno County but also City of Fresno and Clovis, to ensure wells were being drilled below the level at which we expect the groundwater levels to stabilize (below the minimum thresholds). While this practice has proven to be helpful and based on reviewing those permit applications, the majority of the wells are being drilled below

the minimum thresholds established for the sustainable management criteria (SMC) wells.

Given the pending well mitigation program being considered to be implemented by the NKGSA, it is prudent to establish a policy to establish the need for wells to be drilled below the minimum thresholds to qualify for future domestic well mitigation programs. The NKGSA does not want to be responsible for mitigating for wells that are drilled shallow and run the risk of going dry or losing production prior to reaching sustainable conditions.

The NKGSA does not have any well permitting authority under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 as that is a ministerial permit. The North Kings GSA is establishing a policy creating a minimum depths for wells drilled after the effective date of the policy to be able to seek mitigation resources from the NKGSA. Legal counsel has reviewed the attached draft policy and concurs with the need to have a policy to protect the NKGSA from having to mitigate for shallow wells drilled in the future.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact related to the proposed policy.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

The proposed policy protects the NKGSA from mitigating for wells that go dry due to being drilled above the minimum thresholds after the policy is adopted.

ACTIONS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The proposed policy will be presented to the NKGSA Board of Directors at its February 22, 2024, board meeting for possible action.

Prepared by: Kassy D. Chauhan

NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

Policy No: NKGSA – 2024-001
Policy Title: Minimum Well Depth Construction Policy
Board Approval Date:
Policy Effective Date:

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide minimum depth standards for the construction of new wells with consideration of anticipated future groundwater elevations within the North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency (NKGSA).

2.0 Background

The NKGSA's approved Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) anticipates continued decline of groundwater levels as it works towards the required sustainability goal prior to 2040. With the anticipated decline, the GSP identifies future anticipated groundwater levels throughout the NKGSA. The GSP includes Indicator Wells at a density of approximately two per township, and at each Indicator Well, a Minimum Threshold was identified as the potential lowest groundwater elevation that may occur during the most extreme drought scenario considered in the development of the GSP. The Minimum Thresholds vary across the NKGSA from approximately 30 feet to 230 feet below ground surface.

3.0 Policy

All new wells in NKGSA should be constructed to an adequate depth below the Minimum Threshold in the vicinity of the new well to allow for continued operation should water levels decline to that level. The NKGSA does not recommend a typical depth below the Minimum Threshold as subsurface conditions vary by location. Consideration of construction depth for long-term operation of the well is the responsibility of the well driller and well owner. The NKGSA shall make the Minimum Threshold depth and elevation data available on its website to allow for review by well drillers and well owners.

This policy applies to all production wells constructed within the NKGSA, including domestic wells that will produce less than two (2) acre-feet of water annually.

This policy is not meant to duplicate or replace well permitting procedures implemented by Fresno County, or other permitting agencies within the NKGSA boundary. All new wells shall be constructed in compliance with other County, State and local requirements.

Wells that are constructed after the adoption of this policy to depths shallower than the Minimum Threshold in the vicinity of the well may be excluded from future programs implemented by the NKGSA.

4.0 Effective Date and Modification

a. This Policy shall become effective upon its passage and adoption.

b. NKGSA Board of Directors may modify this Policy at any time, at its sole discretion, pursuant to the applicable procedures described in the NKGSA's bylaws.

The foregoing Minimum Well Depth Construction Policy was passed and adopted by the Board of Directors of the North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency, at a regular meeting thereof held on the _____ day of _____ 2024, by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:

_____
Chairman, Board of Directors
Mr. Jerry Prieto
North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency

ATTEST:

_____
Kassy D. Chauhan, P.E.
North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Executive Officer

Approved as to legal form and effect:

_____
David Boyer, Esq, AALRR
Legal Counsel – North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency

9 (a - f) – Executive Officer Report

NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

AGENDA ITEM NO:	**9 (a) - (f)**
Executive Officer:	KDC

NKGSA-
REPORT TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

TO: Chair and Committee Members

FROM: Executive Officer – Kassy Chauhan

DATE: February 6, 2024

SUBJECT: NKGSA Executive Officer Report

ATTACHMENTS: A: None

2023 Year in Review

2023 was a busy year for the North Kings GSA and resulted in the Department of Water Resource (DWR) determining the groundwater sustainability plans (GSPs) for the Kings Basin were complete. The GSP determination letter was received in August 2023 which was a major milestone accomplishment for the NKGSA and the other six GSAs in the Kings Basin. The complete determination letter contained 12 corrective actions needing to be addressed which laid the foundation for the activities taking place the latter part of 2023 and into 2024.

Groundwater recharge efforts were at an all time high in 2023 given the historic water year conditions and the development of additional groundwater recharge basins available to capture floodwater for groundwater recharge purposes. In the North Kings GSA boundary alone, there were about 200,000 acre-feet of water recharged in the various groundwater basins which significantly reduced the amount of pumping needed to meet irrigation demands, primarily in Fresno Irrigation District. The effects of abundant surface water and reduced groundwater pumping were seen in the Fall 2023 groundwater level measurements which showed improved depths to groundwater in all but one well in the representative monitoring network.

The financial position of the NKGSA also remained strong and the practice of spending less than the projected budget continued allowing for the member participation balances to be used to cover almost 50% of the expenses for FY 2023-2024, all while maintaining an operating reserve equivalent to one year of expenses. The NKGSA has also started to develop its own financial policies including four policies adopted to prescribe the hiring of an auditor, the preparation of the financial reports, the budget process, the reserve policy and an investment policy. The Board unanimously supported staff

recommendation to invest its reserves in the local agency investment fund which has shown much higher returns than traditional savings accounts. NKGSA has traditionally relied on administrative policies for FID absence of their own policies. As opportunities present themselves for the development of specific NKGSA policies, those polices are prepared and considered for adoption by the Board of Directors.

Additional efforts throughout 2023 included the solicitation and development of an updated project list for the NKGSA agencies working to mitigate for the pumping occurring within their boundaries; completion of the Biola Community Services District groundwater recharge project; the start of construction on two additional groundwater recharge basins – one for FID (Kenneson Sanchez Basin) and one for City of Kerman (Lions Park Reservoir project); emergency floodwater projects for FID to interconnect two FMFCD stormwater basins for recharge and flood risk mitigation; commencement of construction on an intertie for another FMFCD flood control basin for the Malaga County Water District; and multiple water supply agreements between FID and the City of Kerman, Biola CSD, Malaga County Water District and Pinedale County Water District. The member agencies continue to pursue groundwater recharge as their preferred method to mitigate for the pumping occurring within their boundaries and 2023 afforded several opportunities for those SGMA implementation projects to either start construction or be completed.

2024 Priorities:

2024 will be primarily focused on addressing the corrective actions identified in DWR's GSP completeness determination letter for the Kings Basin. There are three studies needing to be completed and the associated revisions need to be made to the GSP. Specifically, the following items have been identified as needing to be completed and efforts are underway to ensure these items can be accomplished in 2024:

1. Development, review and approval of the domestic well mitigation program framework and associated policies/procedures including resources to begin mitigation for domestic wells that go dry within the NKGSA boundary. The program will be developed at the Kings Basin level and will be considered by each of the GSAs. The funding mechanism will be the responsibility of individual GSAs. DWR has indicated the program has to be implemented before the revised GSP is submitted to DWR in January 2025.
2. Continue with the interconnected surface water investigations on the San Joaquin and Kings Rivers to gather data and demonstrate progress towards establishing sustainable management criteria for wells in and around the rivers. This effort is highly technical, and the data gaps are extensive. P&P is working on a scope of work to help with filling the data gaps and moving towards establishing SMCs.
3. The 2023 Annual Report is due to DWR by April 1, 2024. The NKGSA will work with P&P by providing information from its member agencies to aid in the completion of the annual report for the Kings Basin.
4. Monitoring network improvements at the SMC wells is imperative as part of the long-term strategy for ensuring the groundwater levels are responding as expected to the mitigation projects being implemented. There are problematic monitoring sites and while the best alternative is to have a dedicated monitoring network, which will take time and significant financial resources. In 2024, the priority will be to start working toward adding telemetry to wells that prove challenging to access, identify replacement wells when

appropriate and begin working on the development of a dedicated monitoring network to reduce the reliance on existing irrigation wells being used for groundwater level measurements for compliance purposes. This will be a phased approach spanning three to five years, to be determined based on available resources.

5. Review and assess member agency mitigation targets and efforts and progress towards addressing the overdraft in the individual agency boundaries.
6. Roll-out of the well registration program will start in 2024 and continue through most of the year. The program will invite landowners to provide information on wells on their property – both domestic and irrigation wells, to allow for better management of the groundwater resources within the NKGSA boundary.
7. Other activities will include working to secure funding and offering support for agencies seeking to complete SGMA implementation projects; routine engagement with the Board of Directors and local elected officials; continue activity on social media and on the NKGSA website to support stakeholder engagement; accept opportunities to speak at various conferences and events to showcase the good work happening within the Kings Basin and the NKGSA; and maintain a high level of professionalism at all times.

Groundwater Sustainability Plan – Studies and Revisions

The Kings Basin continues to work on three studies committed to by the GSAs to address corrective actions identified by the Department of Water Resources in its adequacy determination letter to the Kings Basin. All three studies are being done by Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group.

SGMA Implementation Project Updates

Progress continues on the projects being constructed under the Round 1 SGMA implementation grant funds. These projects include Fresno Irrigation District's (FID's) Carter-Bybee Basin, along with projects for Consolidated Irrigation District, James Irrigation District and Riverdale Irrigation District. The total grant award was $7.6 million.

Construction on a second FID recharge basin, the Kenneson-Sanchez Basin, continues despite some recent storms. The project is being co-funded by FID, IRWMP grant, and an NRCS Recharge Pilot Program grant.

Work on the City of Kerman's Lion's Park meter project to measure water diverted for groundwater recharge purposes at the Lion's Park Recharge Basin is underway and a site visit was conducted in January 2024. The project has been stalled due to the meter deliver being delayed. This project will be the first groundwater sustainability project completed by the City of Kerman.

Malaga County Water District is working with the FMFCD on a Prop 1 grant to interconnect Basin CK to FID's canal to allow water to be diverted for groundwater recharge credited to the Malaga County Water District. Construction has started and will continue through the Spring 2024.

Outreach and External Affairs

The NKGSA remains active on social media including recent posts related to the groundwater sustainability projects being completed by its member agencies. Additionally, the NKGSA actively engages with stakeholders via e-blogs and by providing information on the website. Participation in the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint and the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley continues.

Miscellaneous

Well Intake Portal Launch

The well intake portal has been completed and will be live on the NKGSA website in February 2024. Access to the well intake portal will be available to those who visit the NKGSA website. Starting in April 2024, the NKGSA will begin to distribute materials and advertise the availability of the tool on its website. It is expected that well owners will be able to provide information on their wells throughout most of 2024.

For those farmers with multiple wells, there will be an option for a batch upload of well information especially if it's been summarized in a table to eliminate the need for inputting the information individually. Additional details on the full launch of the well intake portal will be shared at the future Advisory Committee meetings.

Well Permit Review:

The NKGSA continues to review each of the well permit applications submitted to permitting agencies for wells being drilled within the NKGSA boundary. Data obtained from the well permit applications is compiled to facilitate ease of review and tracking. The NKGSA has been reviewing all new well permit applications submitted to Fresno County. The locations of the proposed new wells (including replacement wells) are being mapped to enable the NKGSA to identify any areas of concerns. In addition, the NKGSA is notified by the State of California any time there is a report of a well going dry through the My Well Went Dry portal housed on DWR's website.

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